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SUBJECT: ILC ELECTION: JAPAN POSITION UNCHANGED

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Contacted November 1 by Embassy Tokyo Political Officer in regard to the current Japanese position toward the International Law Commission candidacy of Michael Matheson, MOFA International Legal Affairs officer Sugihara reconfirmed message in ref b. That is, Japan will support U.S. candidate Michael Matheson if the United States supports the Japanese candidate, Ambassador Chusei Yamada. Acknowledging the U.S. policy not to make reciprocal support agreements, Sugihara said that Japan expects U.S. support for Ambassador Yamada based on an October 2005 conversation in New York between the Ambassador and State Department Legal Advisor, which he called an "informal agreement." The United States can "informally" be assured of Japan's support for Mr. Matheson, he stated.
SCHIEFFER